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SENATE BILL 197

**48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007**

INTRODUCED BY

Cynthia Nava

AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH INSURANCE; PROHIBITING EXCLUSION OF COVERAGE FOR INDIVIDUALS DIAGNOSED WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. A new section of Chapter 59A, Article 22 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] COVERAGE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER.--An individual or group health insurance policy, health care plan or certificate of insurance that is delivered or issued for delivery in this state shall not exclude coverage for diagnosis and treatment of medical conditions otherwise covered by the policy solely because the treatment is provided to diagnose or treat autism spectrum disorder. For the purposes of this section, "autism spectrum disorder" means a neurobiological condition that includes

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1 autism, Asperger syndrome, Rett's syndrome or pervasive  
2 developmental disorder."

3 Section 2. A new section of Chapter 59A, Article 23 NMSA  
4 1978 is enacted to read:

5 "[NEW MATERIAL] COVERAGE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM  
6 SPECTRUM DISORDER.--A blanket or group health insurance policy  
7 or contract that is delivered or issued for delivery in this  
8 state shall not exclude coverage for diagnosis and treatment of  
9 medical conditions otherwise covered by the policy solely  
10 because the treatment is provided to diagnose or treat autism  
11 spectrum disorder. For purposes of this section, "autism  
12 spectrum disorder" means a neurobiological condition that  
13 includes autism, Asperger syndrome, Rett's syndrome or  
14 pervasive developmental disorder."

15 Section 3. A new section of Chapter 59A, Article 46 NMSA  
16 1978 is enacted to read:

17 "[NEW MATERIAL] COVERAGE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM  
18 SPECTRUM DISORDER.--An individual or group health maintenance  
19 organization contract that is delivered or issued for delivery  
20 in this state shall not exclude coverage for diagnosis and  
21 treatment of medical conditions otherwise covered by the policy  
22 solely because the treatment is provided to diagnose or treat  
23 autism spectrum disorder. For the purposes of this section,  
24 "autism spectrum disorder" means a neurobiological condition  
25 that includes autism, Asperger syndrome, Rett's syndrome or

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1 pervasive developmental disorder."

2 Section 4. A new section of Chapter 59A, Article 47 NMSA  
3 1978 is enacted to read:

4 "[NEW MATERIAL] COVERAGE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM  
5 SPECTRUM DISORDER.--An individual or group contract for health  
6 care payments that is delivered or issued for delivery in this  
7 state shall not exclude coverage for diagnosis and treatment of  
8 medical conditions otherwise covered by the policy solely  
9 because the treatment is provided to diagnose or treat autism  
10 spectrum disorder. For the purposes of this section, "autism  
11 spectrum disorder" means a neurobiological condition that  
12 includes autism, Asperger syndrome, Rett's syndrome or  
13 pervasive developmental disorder."

14 Section 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the  
15 provisions of this act is July 1, 2007.